

While this compact volume is comprehensive, it makes no pretense of being a complete textbook. Still, it is remarkably up-to-date, with many citations to articles published in 1997. As pointed out in the foreword, readers who require additional information can refer to Dr Kaplan's larger book "Clinical Hypertension," which, coincidentally, is also in its 7th edition.

"Management of hypertension" will serve as a practical reference for all clinicians who care for patients with hypertension, either in a primary care or specialty setting. The outline and summary format will have particular appeal to medical students and residents, but the information presented will also be of value to more experienced physicians—and it will not take up much space in your pocket.

*R. Eugene Zierler, MD
University of Washington Medical Center
Department of Surgery
Seattle, Wash*

WebDoctor: your online guide to health care and wellness

Richard Sharp, Vicki Sharp; St Louis; 1998; QMP; 557 pages; \$28.00.

Although this book contains 557 pages and is accompanied by a CD-ROM with 45.7 megabytes of data on it, the narrative portion contains only 9 pages. Most of the text is an encyclopedic compilation of the medical sites on the worldwide web (WWW).

The goal of the authors is to provide consumers, medical doctors, and health care professionals with web sites that will expand and enrich their medical knowledge. This goal, particularly for consumers, has been met generally by this text. The web sites are categorized by subjects, and each site has a brief description of its contents. The accompanying CD-ROM has the links available as an index, which circumvents the need for typing each link of interest. The electronic links worked well on my system.

A major problem with the medical information that is on the WWW is that there is no regulation of content. This book nicely sidesteps that issue by providing, particularly to consumers, web sites that are screened by the authors for content.

I am pleased to see such a book in print and available to consumers. I am not sure what value it will have for medical professionals. In each professional's field, there is little available on the WWW that is not already known. Outside a professional's field, a referral to a standard text or to a colleague may be better than the WWW. As far as the field of vascular surgery, there are no links to any web sites of interest, including no link to the web page of the joint societies.

In conclusion, this is an excellent guide and starting point for the consumer to locate medical sites on the WWW. Because of the limited reliability and value of med-

ical information on the WWW, its usefulness for vascular surgeons and for most specialists is limited.

*James M. Edwards, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery
Oregon Health Sciences University
Portland, Ore*

Modern surgical care: physiologic foundations and clinical applications, 2nd ed

Thomas Miller; St Louis; 1998; QMP; 1454 pages; \$145.00.

This comprehensive, multi-authored text is a unique book that is focused on the physiologic basis of surgical care. This second edition has been revised with several improvements from the original. The text has contributions from more than 80 authors and approaches surgical disease as a derangement in normal physiology. The contributing authors have made significant clinical contributions in their respective fields and are also fully current on the physiologic processes that are pertinent to the topics presented. The book is divided into 9 sections, with the first section devoted to general considerations in the management of surgical patients. The remaining 8 sections are focused on specific organ systems, which include the alimentary tract, the cardiothoracic system, the urinary system, the central and peripheral nervous systems, the peripheral vascular system, the endocrine system, the integument, and the body wall. The last section concerns special physiologic considerations (ie, pediatric patients, elderly patients, and morbidly obese patients).

The strength of this textbook is that the breadth and the depth of the physiologic topics that are covered give the reader a single resource to review for a comprehensive understanding. The only weakness is perhaps the size. Each of the chapters is exhaustively referenced for further in-depth reading. The textbook is full of illustrations, including schematic diagrams, radiographs, and anatomic sketches that augment the detailed text.

The overall value of a text of this nature is self-evident, and its purchase is strongly endorsed. The main role of this textbook is in surgical education, particularly in the training of surgical residents who require a broad, general perspective of basic mechanisms underlying surgical disease. It would undoubtedly be valuable for the preparation for in-training examinations in surgery and for the certification examinations in surgery.

*Peter G. Kalman, MD
The Toronto Hospital—General Division
Toronto, Ontario
Canada*

Vascular endothelium: pharmacologic and genetic manipulations

John Catravas, Allan Callow, Una Ryan; New York City; 1998; Plenum; 300 pages.